

## The Israelites at Sinai

- Moses' meeting with the people 19:7-15
  - Assembled the leaders and related God's message to them
  - The people commit to obey all that the Yahweh has spoken.

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## The Israelites at Sinai

- Moses' meeting with the people 19:7-15
  - God reveals that He will meet with the people and Moses receives instructions on how to prepare for that meeting.
    - Two days of preparation.
      - Although the word fasting is not used, it seems that these two days were to be two days of deep contemplation on this meeting with God to the extent that routine activities of life would be laid aside.
      - Garments to be washed.
    - Boundaries to be set around the mountain and anyone or anything breaching the boundary would be immediately put to death.

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## The Israelites at Sinai

- Yahweh's meeting with the people 19:16-20:17
  - The presence of God depicted by thunder, lightening, a dark cloud and a very loud trumpet blast.
  - The people gathered around the mountain and Moses went up on the mountain
  - God sent Moses to bring Aaron up with him and to warn the people to not come up on the mountain.
  - God spoke His commands directly to the people.

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## The Israelites at Sinai

- The response of the people to their direct meeting with Yahweh. 20:18-21
  - Fear
  - Distance
  - Request that God speak to them through Moses.
- God's purpose for the direct meeting with the people
  - To validate Moses' leadership 19:9
  - So the people experience such a reverence for God that they would not sin.

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## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- God begins by identifying Who He is.
  - Yahweh, your Elohim
    - At the burning bush God had revealed himself to Moses as the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
  - The One who delivered you from Egypt.
  - This identification establishes Yahweh as the One Who has the authority to set these requirements and expect obedience to them.

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## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- You shall have no other gods before me.
  - Exclusive devotion to Yahweh as the one true and living God.
  - This command was given in the midst of a polytheistic world. There were chief gods of the pantheon of gods but monotheism was a sharp departure from the practices of the people of the world at that time.

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## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- You shall not make for yourself a carved image...
  - No creature or object in space, sky, earth or seas could adequately represent the creator of all these things.
  - Yahweh is a jealous God. He has every right to challenge any inferior thing or object that would lay claim to His exclusive position.
  - A strong caution and a wonderful promise is given regarding the legacy one generation is able to pass to subsequent generations.
    - This does not teach what some people today teach as “generational sins” in the sense that one generation is held accountable by the sins of the previous generation. The Bible clearly teaches that we are responsible for our own actions, not the actions of others. (Deuteronomy 24:16; Jeremiah 31:29-30; Ezekiel 18)

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## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
  - In this time a name was synonymous with the character of the one possessing the name. To use the name of God in any way except to give honor, reverence and glory to that name would violate this commandment. (See also Deuteronomy 6:13-15; 10:20-22)
  - Swearing by the name of the LORD to bolster a lie is a clear violation of this command. <sup>12</sup> You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. Leviticus 19:12 (ESV)

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## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
  - Word sabbath means to stop or cease. The command is for work to cease on this day.
  - The command is to Israel and to those who dwell with them.
  - The basis for the command goes back to creation when God ceased from the work of creation on the seventh day. This is the only precedent we have for a seven day week.
  - This also locks in creation as seven literal days.
  - This command gave a weekly reminder of all of the commands to the Israelites.

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## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
  - Jesus was constantly hounded by the religious leaders and accused of breaking the Sabbath law for healing on the Sabbath and every time he revealed that they were the ones in error.
  - Outside the Gospels and the Book of Acts which are all references to things taking place on a Sabbath day, there are only two references to the Sabbath in the New Testament:
    - <sup>16</sup> Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. Colossians 2:16 (ESV)
      - This was Paul's response to those who were trying to bring those who had professed faith in Christ under the Old Testament laws as a condition of salvation.

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## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
  - Outside the Gospels and the Book of Acts which are all references to things taking place on a Sabbath day, there are only two references to the Sabbath in the New Testament:
    - <sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup> for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Hebrews 4:9-10 (ESV)
      - This passage clearly reveals the fulfillment of the Sabbath law in the life of a follower of Jesus Christ. We keep the Sabbath rest when we cease from our efforts to earn our salvation and rest in the completed work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
  - Although not mentioned by name Romans 14:5-6 refers to the Sabbath as practiced by the Israelites.
    - <sup>5</sup> One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.
    - <sup>6</sup> The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. Romans 14:5-6 (ESV)
      - This reflects the reality of the church in Paul's day where some were largely made up of people coming out of Judaism while others were made up largely of Gentiles. The instruction here is to go with your personal conviction without judging the different practice of others.

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